

1 KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
2 JANICE K. LACHMAN
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KENT D. HARRIS
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 144804
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
6 Telephone: (916) 324-7859
Facsimile: (916) 327-8643
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2012-110

13 **CONCEPCION RANA LARDIZABAL**
14 **152 Omaha Avenue**
15 **Clovis, CA 93619**
16 **Registered Nurse License No. 525922**

A C C U S A T I O N

Respondent.

17 Complainant alleges:

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her
20 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"),
Department of Consumer Affairs.

21 2. On or about August 29, 1996, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number
22 525922 to Concepcion Rana Lardizabal ("Respondent"). Respondent's registered nurse license
23 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on
24 December 31, 2011, unless renewed.

25 **STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

26 3. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that
27 the Board may discipline any licensee for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with
28 section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

1 4. Code section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not
2 deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or
3 to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Code section 2811, subdivision
4 (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

5 5. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:

6 The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed
7 nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

8 (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the
9 following:

10 (1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or
11 licensed nursing functions . . .

12 6. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section ("Regulation") 1442 states:

13 As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'gross negligence' includes an
14 extreme departure from the standard of care which, under similar circumstances,
15 would have ordinarily been exercised by a competent registered nurse. Such an
16 extreme departure means the repeated failure to provide nursing care as required or
17 failure to provide care or to exercise ordinary precaution in a single situation which
18 the nurse knew, or should have known, could have jeopardized the client's health or
19 life.

20 7. Regulation 1443 states:

21 As used in Section 2761 of the code, "incompetence" means the lack of
22 possession of or the failure to exercise that degree of learning, skill, care and
23 experience ordinarily possessed and exercised by a competent registered nurse as
24 described in Section 1443.5.

25 COST RECOVERY

26 8. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the
27 administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of
28 the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and
29 enforcement of the case.

30 DEFINITIONS

31 9. "Coumadin", a brand of warfarin sodium, is an anticoagulant (blood thinner) used in
32 the prevention or treatment of venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, atrial fibrillation, and

33 ///

1 myocardial infarction. Coumadin interferes with blood clotting by lowering the liver's production
2 of certain clotting factors.

3 10. Prothrombin time (PT) is a blood test used to assess the clotting ability of blood; i.e.,
4 how long it takes for blood to clot. The PT test is also used to monitor the condition of patients
5 who are taking warfarin.

6 11. International Normalized Ratio (INR) is a laboratory test used to determine the
7 comparative rating of a patient's PT ratio, used as a standard for monitoring the effects of
8 warfarin.

9 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

10 **(Gross Negligence)**

11 12. At all times relevant herein, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse for
12 Clovis Community Medical Center located in Clovis, California.

13 13. On or about September 26, 2008, patient D. L. was admitted to the medical center
14 with acute shortness of breath due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, rule out congestive
15 heart failure, rule out pneumonia.

16 14. On or about September 27, 2008, Dr. S. S. ordered Coumadin 5 mg for the patient to
17 be given by mouth every "HS" (hour of sleep or 2100 hours as set forth in the medical center's
18 policies and procedures). Between September 27 and October 8, 2008, the Coumadin was
19 administered by various nurses as ordered. D.L. subsequently died on October 9, 2008 from an
20 intracerebral hemorrhage.

21 15. On or about October 3, 4, and 5, 2008, at 2100 hours on each date, Respondent
22 administered Coumadin 5 mg to the patient.

23 16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761,
24 subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about October 3, 4, and
25 5, 2008, Respondent committed acts constituting gross negligence in her care of patient D. L. as
26 defined in Regulation 1442, as follows:

27 a. Respondent administered Coumadin to the patient without assessing lab values, PT
28 and INR, to determine if the patient was below, above, or within the target therapeutic range

1 and/or failed to question why PT and INR laboratory studies were not present in the patient's
2 chart and/or ordered by the patient's physician.

3 b. Respondent administered Coumadin to the patient without questioning the physician's
4 orders even though the patient was concurrently receiving other medications, including aspirin,
5 acetaminophen, and/or amiodarone, which could significantly potentiate the anticoagulant effect
6 of Coumadin.

7 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

8 **(Incompetence)**

9 17. Complainant incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the allegations
10 contained in paragraphs 12 through 15 above.

11 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761,
12 subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about October 3, 4, and
13 5, 2008, Respondent committed acts constituting incompetence in her care of patient D. L. as
14 defined in Regulation 1443, as follows:

15 a. Respondent administered Coumadin to the patient without assessing lab values, PT
16 and INR, to determine if the patient was below, above, or within the target therapeutic range,
17 and/or failed to question why PT and INR laboratory studies were not present in the patient's
18 chart and/or ordered by the patient's physician even though Respondent knew of the bleeding
19 risks inherent in Coumadin administration and the standard or need for monitoring PT and INR.

20 b. Respondent failed to provide education to the patient on the drug/drug and
21 drug/nutrient interactions when administering the Coumadin.

22 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

23 **Unprofessional Conduct**

24 19. Complainant incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein the allegations
25 contained in paragraphs 12 through 15 above.

26 20. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761,
27 subdivision (a), in that on or about October 3, 4, and 5, 2008, Respondent committed acts
28 constituting unprofessional conduct, as set forth in paragraphs 16 and 18 above.

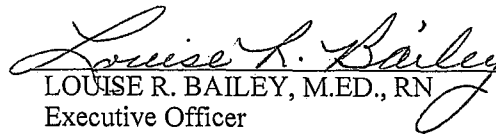
PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 525922, issued to Concepcion Rana Lardizabal;
2. Ordering Concepcion Rana Lardizabal to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED:

August 15, 2011


LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN
Executive Officer
Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

SA2010103014